

Section "A"

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amend claim 16 as follows:

Claim 16 line 1 After "transfer" insert the underlined hand.

line 4 after "of" erase the cross hatched a and insert the underlined at least one, and, erase the cross hatched "including" and insert the underlined from the group consisting of.

The copy of the being amended claim 16 is as follows:

- 1 16 A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from
- 2 a spillage area comprising:
- 3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being
- 4 of a at least one at least one material including from the group consisting of from the group
- 5 consisting of particles, woven filaments,  
metal powders
- 5 and particle sponges, and,
- 6 a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage
- 7 area.

The clean copy of amended claim 16 is as follows

- 16 A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from
- 2 a spillage area comprising:
- 3 a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being
- 4 of at least one material from the group consisting of particles, woven filaments, metal powders
- 5 and particle sponges, and,

6 a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage  
7 area.

Kindly amend claim 17 as follows:

Claim 17 line 3 erase the cross hatched "spillage area" and in lieu thereof insert the underlined  
absorber hand tool serving as a spillage area

line 4 after "of" erase the cross hatched a and insert the underlined at least one, and,  
erase the cross hatched "including" and insert the underlined from the group  
consisting of.

line 6 after "having" insert the underlined a

A clean copy of the being amended claim 17 is as follows:

1 17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from  
2 a spillage area comprising the steps of:  
3 providing a ~~spillage area~~ deformable absorbable hand tool serving as a spillage area  
contacting member,  
4 said member being of ~~#~~ at least one material ~~including~~ from the group consisting of  
particles,  
5 woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and said member  
6 having a deformable region and a contacting region and having ~~#~~ a coating of gold,  
7 positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area ,and,  
8 moving said member over said spillage area.

The clean copy of the amended claim 17 is as follows

1       17. The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of spilled mercury from  
2       a spillage area comprising the steps of:  
3       providing a deformable absorbable hand tool serving as a spillage area contacting member,  
4            said member being of at least one material from the group consisting of particles,  
5            woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and said member  
6            having a deformable region and a contacting region and having a coating of gold,  
7            positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area ,and,  
8            moving said member over said spillage area.

Cancel claims 6, and 9 - 11.

#### Claim summary

There have been 17 claims in the application.

#### Claims 1 - 15 at filing

Claim 1 - 5 cancelled - 12/26/02

Claim 16 added 12/26/02

Claim 11 amended 12/26/02

Claim s 12 - 15 cancelled 12/26/02

Claims 6, 9 11 and 16 amended 10/8/03

Claims 7 and 8 cancelled 10/8/03

Claim 17 added 10/8/03

Claims 6 and 9-11 are cancelled herewith

Claims 16 and 17 are amended herewith.

## DISCUSSION

The remaining claims, process and structure, as amended are directed to a hand tool for soaking up and removing spilled mercury where the transfer tool has a number of unique features all expressed as claim limitations that distinguish over the art. The hand tool has an absorber portion that is deformable, element 20 of Figs 4A & B that can change shape at the spillage surface the absorber has a core portion that will hold a large volume with each of the core members filaments coated with gold 7 which has a high affinity for the mercury. The art has been active but heretofore no one has addressed this spillage problem.

In view of the limiting of the claims the following discussion of the art as it pertains to the invention is advanced.

It is respectfully urged: that the art is in many fields but applicants contribution is not involved. There is much effort in removal of mercury from an ambient. The Yan reference describes a system for removing mercury in organic, inorganic and metallic forms from a vapor. The Williston, Hasenpusch, and Gunter references indicate that thin films of gold on a carrier material are used to absorb mercury present in a vapor. The Jackson, Spirig 408, Spirig 606, and Kent references indicate that the concept of wicking is practiced in the molten solder field. The references do not provide much teaching in a field such as applicants hand tool for soaking up and carrying off mercury that requires care in handling. One skilled in the art with applicants problem wouldnt get much help from the art.

The only reference that is specifically directed to the cleaning up of mercury spills is the Seidenberger reference that uses a special zinc coated wool but doesn't describe the features that

give applicants their advantage.

Applicants are urging with respect to claims 16, and 17 that the invention of a deformable absorber that can change shape and provide access to a broad area of thin gold affinity at the spillage area interface together with the ability provided through the filamentary arrangement to soak up a large volume of mercury for transport is neither taught nor suggested by the art and provides a major step and a patentable contribution to the art.

If applicants attorney can be of assistance he can be reached on (914) 946-2249

Respectfully submitted,

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